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Whiteaways
HONGKONG & KOWLOON

No. 36364

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1956.

Price 20 Cents

COMMENT OF THE DAY

The Future Of Radio HK

TOMORROW the Unofficials are expected to hold the floor in Legislative Council when they are due to debate the White Paper on the future of Radio Hongkong. They have had about six weeks to reflect on the recommendations and to formulate considered views; the speeches, therefore, should provide Government with an acceptable round-up of community reactions to proposals for improving the Colony's broadcasting.

In considering the future of Radio Hongkong it is necessary to appreciate that the station has two distinct transmissions—Chinese and European, and that because the greater proportion of listeners are Chinese and tune into the ZEK programmes, they must be given first thought in any expansion of the station's activities.

Quite properly those appointed to survey Radio Hongkong and to make recommendations for improvement worked on this premise and the emphasis laid on the desirability for longer, better and more varied Chinese programmes is a feature of the report. No one can seriously dispute the propriety of this approach or quarrel with the relevant recommendations.

A CONTINUOUS Chinese transmission for 15 or 16 hours a day is justified, but there does not appear to be the same necessity for greatly extended broadcasting hours on the European transmission. Unlike England and elsewhere, there is no real demand for mid-morning programmes such as Housewife's Choice, Mrs. Daley's Diary and Music While You Work, and few listeners to the European programmes have the time or inclination to tune in to afternoon broadcasts.

It is unlikely the Unofficials will reject the proposal for new and stronger transmitters. They have long been needed to bring the rural and outlying areas into Radio Hongkong's orbit. A stronger signal will particularly help to serve the needs of those listeners who own small receiving sets. Every person who possesses a radio set and pays Government a licence fee is entitled, at least, to be able to receive local broadcasts. With the existing Radio Hongkong transmitters, this is not possible.

THE only really contentious recommendation in the White Paper is that which suggests Radio Hongkong should indulge in commercially-sponsored programmes. The proposal is a financial expediency.

We are very doubtful whether the listening public would like to hear sponsored programmes from Radio Hongkong. The station's offerings—Chinese and European—can be improved in quality and attractiveness without recourse to this type of financing.

The opinion is advanced that the Unofficials should obtain from the Treasury an assurance that the royalties Government receives from Rediffusion will, in future, be directly allocated to Radio Hongkong's account for meeting additional operating costs, and that any subsequent gap between the station's revenue and expenditure be closed by a subsidy from general revenue.

There may or may not be room, as a successful business enterprise, for commercial radio stations in Hongkong, but there is no valid reason why Government should not permit private undertakings from entering this field if they so desire. The dual system works very well in other parts of the world, its competitive nature alone making for better listening.

SAUD'S MEN AT PEACE TALKS

BID TO SETTLE DISPUTE WITH BRITAIN

Buraimi Not To Be Ceded

London, Feb. 20. The Foreign Office today announced that Britain and Saudi Arabia have started discussions to normalise their strained relations.

But a spokesman made it clear that Britain is not prepared to negotiate the sovereignty of the disputed Buraimi Oasis, the major bone of contention between the two nations.

The Foreign Office announcement said: "Preliminary exchanges are taking place between Her Majesty's Government and Saudi Arabia with a view to discussions covering all aspects of relations between the two countries; our position in regard to frontiers remains as stated by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on October 26."

The current discussions were understood to have been prompted by the recent talks between President Eisenhower and Sir Anthony Eden in Washington.

WHOSE INITIATIVE?

The Washington agreement earlier this month suggested that the growing tension between Britain and Saudi Arabia be resolved by direct negotiations of the two parties.

The Foreign Office declined to indicate whether Britain or Saudi Arabia took the initiative to open negotiations. The talks are being held in Jeddah. But the Foreign Office announcement emphasised that Britain's position on the disputed frontier of Saudi Arabia and the protectorate in the Persian Gulf remained unchanged. Sir Anthony Eden said in Parliament on October 26, 1955, that Britain was not prepared to discuss with Saudi Arabia the question of sovereignty of the Buraimi Oasis, which at the time had just been occupied by tribal levies.

TENSION, STRAIN

But Sir Anthony added that Britain was prepared to consider "minor frontier rectifications."

It was anticipated that once the two sides have agreed on the procedure of their negotiations and the scope of the relationship between Britain and Saudi Arabia would come under close review. The strained relationship has added to the tension in the Middle East; Britain indirectly accused Saudi Arabia of stirring up anti-British feelings in the Persian Gulf area and more recently in the strategic kingdom of Jordan.

In Washington, Sir Anthony sought American support against these alleged Saudi activities; Britain was understood to have urged that the U.S. should intervene with King Saud to use American-secured dollars for constructive purposes rather than anti-British propaganda.

The American view has been that the trouble should be resolved in bilateral negotiations.

TURN FOR THE WORSE

Anglo-Saudi relations, which have been under a cloud for some time past, took a turn for the worse when Saudi Arabian manipulations were believed to have been behind recent demonstrations in Jordan against the Baghdad Pact alliance.

King Saud has hitherto declined to receive the newly-appointed British Ambassador, Sir R. W. Pagan, who has been unable to present his credentials. He returned to London last month for the Middle East conference of British Ambassadors and has not returned to his post in Jeddah.

The Saudi-Arabian Ambassador in London was recalled a few months ago and has not returned to his London post. Britain's stand in the issue is largely motivated by anxiety for her oil interests in the Persian Gulf, which officials here have termed a "matter of life and death" for Britain's economic and strategic needs. Officials said today little more than preliminary contact had so far been established.—United Press.



King Saud of Saudi Arabia

300 TROOPS SAIL TO ATTACK REBEL RIVER POST

Rio de Janeiro, Feb. 20.

The Brazilian Army will sail up the Amazon River in a commandeered river boat today to attack four rebellious officers and 27 enlisted men entrenched on the river banks 400 miles west of Belém.

The Government left more than 1,000 angry tourists stranded by commandeering the river boat. President Vargas, normally used for tourist travel between Belém and the nearby resort of Mosquitoiro.

Brig. Joao Alves Cabral, commander of the 1st Air Zone, announced 300 soldiers in the President Vargas will attack the principal rebel stronghold at Santarem.

The expedition, commanded by Air Force Lt.-Col. Athos Botelho, is expected to reach Santarem late tomorrow. Loyal fighter bombers will fly west to cover the landing, and 100 paratroopers flown yesterday from Rio de Janeiro will stand by to reinforce the attackers if necessary.

Airstrips Unusable

Santarem is the only town whose capture by the rebels has been acknowledged by the Government, but reports from the area indicate they also control the jungle towns of Jacareacanga and Porto de Moz.

Commercial pilots say the airstrips at all three towns have been littered with oil drums and tree trunks to prevent landings.

The "private revolt" of the airman began on Feb. 12 when Maj. Haroldo Veloso and Capt. Jose Chaves Lamirao stole a light Air Force plane in Rio and fled for undetermined reasons for Santarem.

They "captured" the town and the nearby airstrip, apparently without firing a shot.

Armed Indians

Two more Air Force officers and 27 enlisted men, sent to arrest Veloso and Chaves, joined the revolt. Rebel forces are also believed to include a number of armed Indians.

While the punitive expedition was forming here, Air Minister Vasco Alves Secco indicated in Rio that the rebels could escape serious punishment by surrendering.

Washington, Feb. 20. United States officials reported today that the State Department would reach a decision soon on Israel's request for \$50,000,000 worth of fighter planes, arms, and military supplies.

It was thought an authoritative source that Israel would be sold at least part of the arms shipment it requested three months ago on the grounds that Soviet bloc arms sales to Egypt threatened its security and defensive capabilities.

But high-level officials conceded today that the new shipment of 15 modern light tanks to Saudi Arabia, one of the Arab bloc nations at issue with Israel, made it exceedingly difficult for the State Department to resist the heavy pressures to sell the Israelis at least part of the weapons requested last November.

Disagreement still exists within the Eisenhower administration on this wisdom of adding substantial quantities of equipment to present Middle East arms supplies.

Drink Dulled His Eyes: Sharpshooter Missed... And Son Fell Dead

New Orleans, Feb. 20.

A 73-year-old man, who once made his living by marksmanship, today told how he missed, "not by much but too much", and fatally shot his son.

Time and a liking for strong drink dulled the sure eye of John Hinkley, who once toured the country for Winchester and Remington, two firearms manufacturers, to demonstrate trick shooting.

All he could mutter, with tears streaming down his face, was: "I missed. I only intended to graze him."

'NO FATHER KILLS'

The bullet with which the elder Hinkley said he intended to graze his 38-year-old son, Charles, hit him between the eyes when Charles turned his head.

"If he hadn't turned it would have been all right," said the old man. "Of course, I didn't try to kill him. No father kills his son."

The father was first booked for aggravated battery and attempt to commit murder, but the charge was later changed by the authorities to murder.

The elder Hinkley said he had been drinking muscatel wine in the kitchen with another son, John Hinkley Jr., yesterday when Charles called him about drinking.

'HE GRABBED ME'

"I told him to let me do what I wanted to do. Then he grabbed me and my wife began throwing water on me. Then Charles knocked me down and began pounding my head on the floor. 'I kicked him off and told him, if you hit me again, I'll kill you. Of course, I didn't mean it but I was nervous. I didn't know what I was doing.'"

The elder Hinkley said he then went through the bathroom, dried off the water and continued on into the bedroom, where he got his .32 calibre revolver.

"Charles was coming out of the bathroom and he started toward me. I didn't want him to hit me again, so I decided to graze him alongside the head. But he turned his head and I missed. Not by much, but too much."—United Press.

Models Flee From Fire In Nighties

Helsinki, Feb. 20.

A group of models including "Miss Europe" of 1955, made a dramatic escape in nightgowns from a hotel fire at Tornio, north Finland early today.

When the fire broke out, Miss Inga-Britt Soederberg, "Miss Europe" was in the second story of the hotel building together with some other young mannequins.

Three of the girls, including Miss Soederberg, had to rush out clad only in their nightgowns, with furs thrown over their shoulders.

Inga-Britt succeeded in finding a pair of men's shoes for her feet, but some other of the 27 guests who were in the building when the fire started were less lucky and had to rush out barefooted into the snow.—United Press.

Former HK Policeman Gaoled

Liverpool, Feb. 20.

A former Hongkong Police Inspector, who was said to have become a chronic alcoholic because of torture by Japanese in World War II was sent to jail this afternoon for three months for driving a car while under the influence of drink on Saturday.

This morning at Bowditch, James Aitken, aged 42, was also fined £20 for being drunk in charge of a car on Sunday.

Mr. Aitken pleaded guilty in both courts. At Bowditch he was disqualified from driving for 12 months. At Liverpool he was disqualified for five years.

At Liverpool Mr. Aitken's defending counsel said he did not drink before he became a Japanese prisoner, but after he was freed he became a chronic alcoholic as a result of torture and was now being treated for this.—Reuter.

Soviet Oil For Israel

Baghdad, Feb. 20.

The Arab League Secretariat officially informed the Iraqi government today that the Soviet Union has agreed to supply Israel with 350,000 to 400,000 tons of crude oil under a trade pact just concluded.—France Press.

Aga Khan Better

Nice, Feb. 20.

The Aga Khan was feeling slightly better today, his physician said.—France-Press.

MP Warns Macmillan Of Big Strike Threat

London, Feb. 20.

Mr Wilson, the Labour Party's "shadow cabinet" Chancellor, said in the House of Commons debate today, the Chancellor was heading for the "worst industrial strike for a generation" if he tried to put pressure on industry so that it became unable to pay higher wages.

This crisis could not be solved by a "discredited and divided government," he said.

The Commonwealth represented in world affairs something more than a mere trading unit, he added. It represented the third alternative to the extremes of imperialism and Soviet colonialism.

If Britain continued to lag behind in production her voice would be "muted" and she would be unable to help less fortunate nations.

MANY 'BOLT HOLES'

Mr Clement Davies, leader of the Liberals, who also tabled an amendment condemning the Government's "failure" to stop inflation, said productivity in Britain had not kept pace with increased earnings.

He said there were many "bolt holes" in the Government's new bill to deal with restrictive trade practices through which industrialists could evade their duty to the public.

Trade Unions also clung to restrictive practices which were dictated largely by fear of another slump and unemployment.

Italian 'Domestics' For Blackpool?

Blackpool, Feb. 21.

Over 100 Italian girls may be working in the boarding houses of this west coast seaside resort next summer to help solve Blackpool's biggest problem—lack of domestic staff.

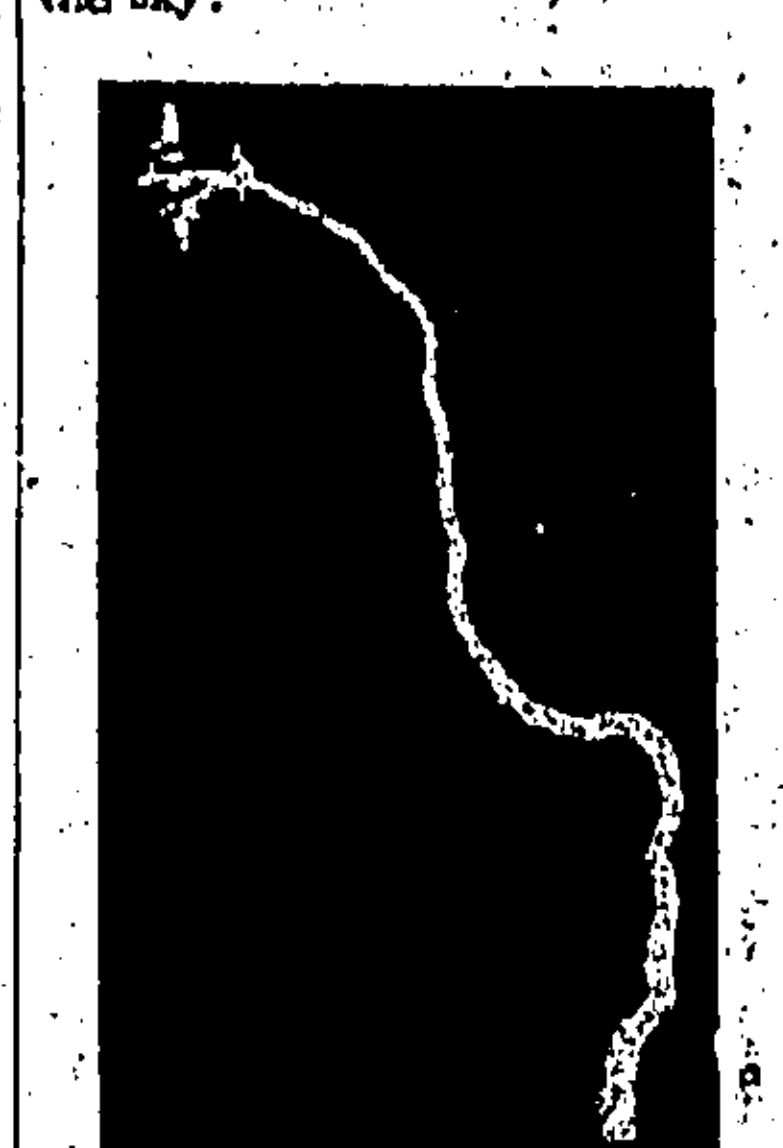
The president of the Town's Hotel and Boarding House Association, Mr. John Shepherd, said that many landladies had asked the Association to arrange for foreign domestic help.

If the Ministry of Labour approves the scheme the first girls will start arriving in Britain early in May.—China Mail Special.

New British Missile Film Shown To Press

Farnborough, Feb. 20. Britain today disclosed that two years ago it had developed an anti-aircraft missile which within seconds knocked a high-flying aircraft out of the sky.

The disclosure came at the Royal Aircraft Establishment where press representatives were shown a film in which a plane flying at 10,000 feet and more than seven miles from the missile launching site was blasted from the sky.



★ FLASHBACK: Here is a night picture of an American anti-aircraft "chaser" rocket at work. It is believed to be a more advanced rocket than the British one mentioned in this story.

The film was taken in April, 1954. Although still photographs of British ground-to-air missiles knocking old bombers from the sky were released to the press last year, this was the first time a complete picture of the operation from start to finish was released.

The missile film shown journalists today proved that two years ago British scientists had perfected a weapon, which could be used against aircraft of World War II vintage. The target plane was a radio-controlled piston engine Fairey Firefly.

Farnborough officials would not say whether the same missile was capable of effectively operating at the 40- to 50,000 feet cruising altitudes of modern near-sonic jet bombers.

Farnborough officials also disclosed that Britain was experimenting with a "landlocked ship" in a marine missile development programme. The ship, called the "Clauven," is built at the foot of a cliff at Aberforth and is manned by naval personnel.—United Press.

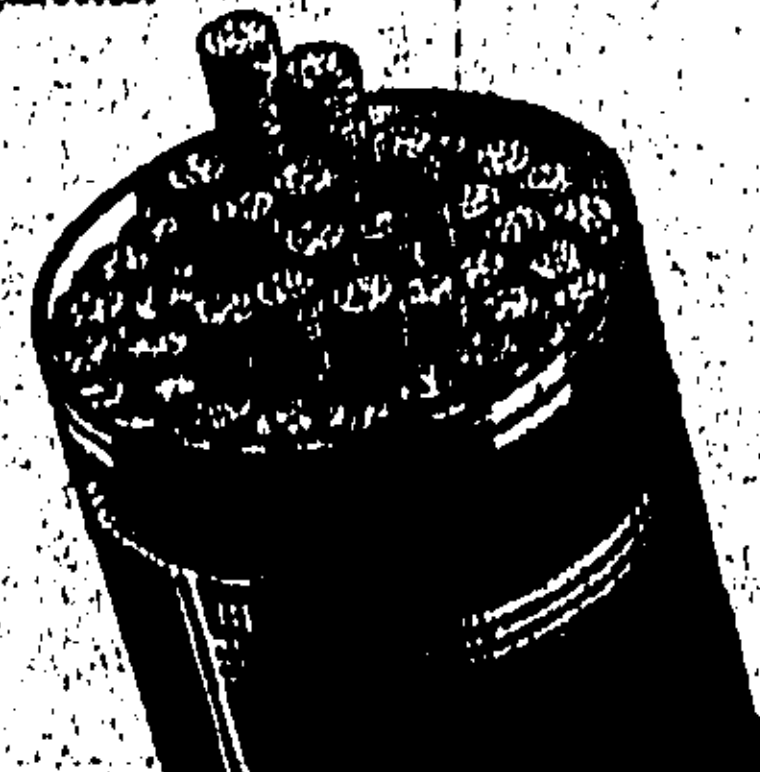
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US Reacting Slowly To New

Snow In The
Eternal City

'Creepy-Peepy'

Goes With
Walkie-Talkie

Washington, Feb. 20.
THE US Army today announced that it now had a "creepy-peepy" television to go with its walkie-talkie radio.

The outfit consists of a hand-held TV camera and a portable transmitter with which a soldier can relay battle pictures to his commanders.

The Army said the lightweight set, weighing 55 pounds, also could help civilian newsmen cover fast-breaking stories such as fires recorded from rooftops, arrival of dignitaries at airports and aircraft wrecks on mountainsides.

It said the camera would be "ideal for on-the-spot interviews" and sports events.

The TV outfit fits ideally with the walkie-talkie radio to give the soldier electronic "reconnaissance eyes and ears."

Mile Away

The camera will make a picture a mile away and relay it to a receiver a half-mile to the rear. The receiver, mounted in a jeep, then can send the televised picture to the commander's headquarters.

The Army said the equipment could replace men in some instances by serving as a "silent sentry" to report enemy movements at the front.

Mounted on a tripod, the camera will transmit pictures for two hours. The receiving jeep can handle pictures from five cameras.

Thus, the Army said, a battlefield can be surveyed just as sports events are covered by commercial TV.

Radio Corporation of America built the combat aid for the Signal Corps, which developed it originally at its engineering laboratories at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.—United Press.

NATO Navy Commander

Paris, Feb. 20.
French Vice-Admiral Antoine Sala was named today to succeed Admiral Robert Jougnot, also of France, as Commander of Allied Naval Forces for Central Europe.

The announcement of Adm. Sala's appointment was made by General Alfred Gruenther, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces for Europe (SHAPE). Admiral Jougnot, who held the command since its creation in 1951, is retiring because of age.—France-Press.

Soviet Line

NO INDICATION OF
ANY MAJOR
COUNTER-OFFENSIVE

By Paul Scott Rankine

Washington, Feb. 20.

The Eisenhower Administration is reacting slowly and hesitantly to the dramatic new turns of Soviet policy being announced at the Communist Party Congress in Moscow.

Officials here today did not minimize the importance of:

1. The official Soviet disavowal of Stalinist imperialism and the obvious appeal of this change in policy to Marxists, but until Stalinist, "Social Democrat" type leaders in the South Asia and Western Europe;

2. The decision to seek communism through Parliamentary methods in non-Communist countries and through "popular front" alliances with non-Communist groups;

3. The proposal for a "zone of peace" in the uncommitted areas of Europe and Asia;

4. The adoption of the United States policy of "massive retaliation."

But there appears to be no indication that the United States will be able to stage a major counter-offensive to match the grand strategy outlined by the Soviet Communist Party Secretary, Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, to the party congress.

Analysis

Insofar as major shifts in Soviet strategy call for a corresponding shift in Western counter-strategy, officials here today had little to suggest except that the speeches before the Congress would be carefully analysed.

One reason for this apparent lethargy is that the chief policy-makers in the administration are currently on vacation: the Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, is fishing off the Bahamas, and the President and his Secretary of the Treasury, shooting quail in Georgia.

Another is that the complex politics of this presidential election year make it difficult for the administration to formulate or agree upon any programme to take the initiative away from the Soviet Union, without finding themselves in conflict with one powerful voting group or another.

It is being pointed out in the press that it is now five months since President Eisenhower's

special adviser on disarmament, Mr. Harold Stassen, appointed inter-departmental "task forces" to prepare United States counter-proposals in reply to Soviet appeals for specific agreements on disarmament.

Investigation

Efforts to put foreign aid programmes on a long-term Marshall Plan basis have run into strong opposition in Congress, itself preoccupied with the approaching Congressional election. This weakens the hand of the administration in countering the Soviet efforts to penetrate Middle East and South Asia, economically and politically.

Despite the feeling of increased unity between the United States and Britain resulting from the recent visit of the British Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, to Washington, the administration has not been able to head off a full-scale and highly publicised Congressional investigation of trade, particularly by Britain, with Communist countries, which tends to present the Anglo-American alliance in an unfavourable light and undermine confidence in the United States' major ally.—China Mail Special.

Battle Of Verdun Commemorated

Paris, Feb. 20.

All France today was commemorating the 40th anniversary of the First World War Battle of Verdun with memorial ceremonies and the laying of wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Paris.

The ceremonies will continue throughout several months, to commemorate the greatest of all entrenched land battles in which millions of men were engaged, villages destroyed and forests razed over a 25-mile arc of Lorraine.

It was there that the French erected their "Verdun Wall" which, at the cost of millions of dead and wounded, halted the German juggernaut and made good the vow that "They shall not pass."

From February 21 to June 16, the army at Verdun now 60 divisions on its front.—France-Press.

Cooks, Barbers And Salesmen Leave Ceylon

Colombo, Feb. 20.

Because Indians are leaving the country, Ceylon is facing a shortage of cooks, barbers, and salesmen, it was learned here today.

Most of these jobs were held by Indians, but 2,000 salesmen, 500 cooks and 750 barbers, all Indians, who held temporary residence permits, are leaving Ceylon on the instructions of the Ceylon government in accordance with the Ceylonisation scheme.

The labour authorities here are finalising plans to train Ceylonese cooks, barbers and salesmen.—France-Press.

Watches On The Rhine

Basle, Feb. 20.

Some 4,000,000 tons of goods passed through the Rhine port at Basle last year, official figures show. This was more than one-third of the whole of Western Europe's foreign trade.—China Mail Special.



The cold spell which hit the continent of Europe recently even caused snow to fall in the Eternal City—for the first time in 15 years. The usually sunny streets were mostly deserted, but these two intrepid Romans had a novel method worked out of getting along the Via Parma. It may be a good 15 years before they have another opportunity to do it this way again.—Express Photo.

Social Republicans Join Mollet Govt

Paris, Feb. 20.

Two Social Republicans tonight accepted posts in the government of French Socialist Premier Guy Mollet.

They were M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas who becomes Minister of State without portfolio, and M. Maurice Lemaire, who becomes Secretary of State for Industry and Commerce.

M. Lemaire will share responsibility for industry and commerce at the Economic Affairs Ministry with M. Bernard Chochoy, a Socialist Secretary of State.

When he formed his government three weeks ago the Premier offered the portfolio of Ex-Servicemen's Affairs to M. Chaban-Delmas and asked M. Lemaire to be Secretary of State for Reconstruction.

Uncertain

They decided to refuse these posts because of their uncertainty about the Algerian policy which M. Mollet would pursue.

The retiring Governor-General of Algeria, M. Jacques Soustelle, is himself a Social Republican, and he was, when the government was formed, to have been replaced by General Georges Catroux.

The Social Republicans feared that the General might make too many concessions to Moslem nationalists in Algeria.

Since then General Catroux has resigned, and has been replaced by M. Lemaire.

RED WRITER ATTACKS COMRADES

Moscow, Feb. 20.

Soviet writer Mikhail Sholokhov today accused his colleagues of "seeking to rest on their laurels" and of leading a life of luxury.

Sholokhov's violent attack against fellow writers was warmly applauded at the Soviet Communist Party Congress by First Party Secretary Nikita Khrushchev who continued to clap even after others had stopped.

Sholokhov also attacked the Union of Soviet Writers and its secretary Mr. Surkov for appraising the level of Soviet literature by the number of books published.

The writers said it would be "difficult to expect good works if the situation does not change."—France-Press.

1,000 TO ONE CHANCE

Wellington, Feb. 20.

A thief who stole a car at Ohangwini, in the centre of the North Island, dumped it and drove it 1,300 miles in three days, lost the car because the owner's fiancée spotted it by a thousand to one chance while on a visit to Taupo, 125 miles from home.

The thief appeared to have reached Taupo after an drive of 1,300 miles in three days. The car was found in a field near the town of Ohangwini.—China Mail Special.

'Restrict Hongkong Cotton Imports'

UK LEADERS SEE THORNEYCROFT

London, Feb. 20.

Leaders of both sides of the British cotton industry today met the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Peter Thorneycroft, and asked him to impose restrictions on the import of cheap, duty-free cloth from Hongkong and India.

A statement issued afterwards said Mr. Thorneycroft "recognised that the industry had made out a strong case."

Mr. Thorneycroft emphasised, however, the grave difficulties involved for the government's broad commercial policy—"particularly at this time"—by a departure from the statement made last May by the Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, on the cotton industry, the statement added.

Maintain Arrangements

(In the House of Commons then the Premier said the government had decided to maintain the arrangements under which cloth imported from the Commonwealth is duty free.) Mr. Thorneycroft also told the delegates that the general considerations underlying that decision remained the same at the present time, the statement said.

He asked the industry to keep in close touch with him about all developments in the situation.

The deputation will report back next week to the industry on today's meeting, after which the policy to be pursued will be decided.

Case Rejected

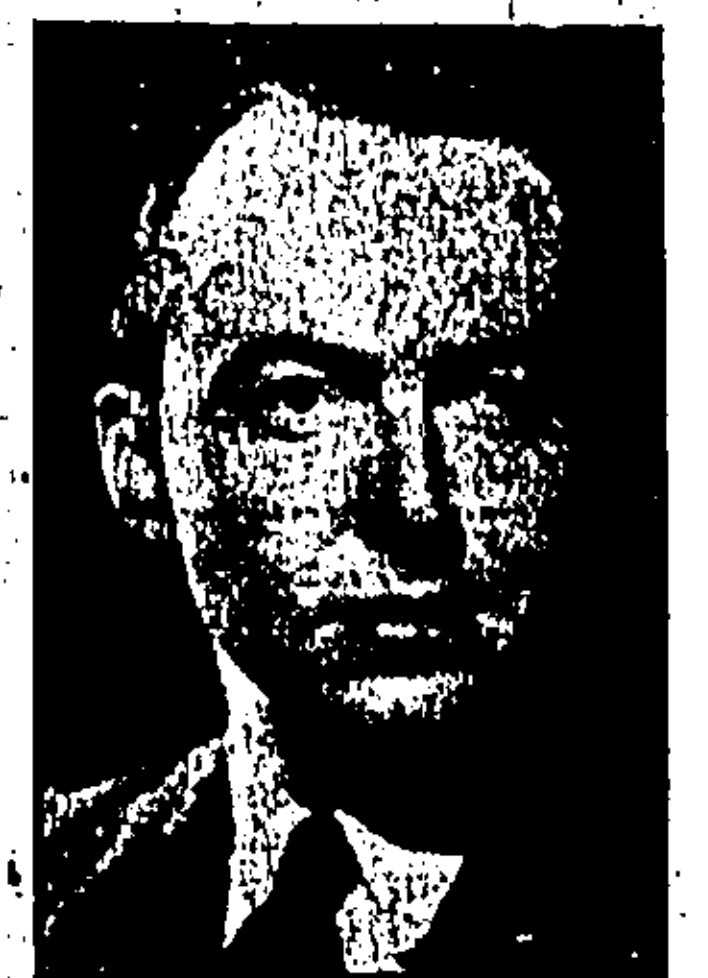
The British industry's case for protection against foreign imports, which amounted to about 180,000 square yards last year, was rejected by the government 12 months ago. The industry submitted a fresh case to Mr. Thorneycroft just before Christmas.—Reuter.

Musician Mobbed By Fans

Caen, Feb. 20.

Jazz musician and orchestra leader Sidney Bechet was recovering today from a riot created by his enthusiastic fans, during which the police had to use fire extinguishers and demonstrators threw snowballs at them.

Bechet was autographing records in a Caen shop when about 50 fans created such an uproar that he could not leave to give a concert at Vimoutiers. Police reinforcements had to be called.—France-Press.



Mr Thorneycroft

Aust. Dock Strike

SINGAPORE

FACES

FLOUR GLUT

Singapore, Feb. 20.

Singapore faces a probable glut of flour next month because of the Australian dock strike.

Importers said today that shipments from Canada and France ordered here because of the Australian strike might not reach the country before the first post-dock strike consignments from Australia.

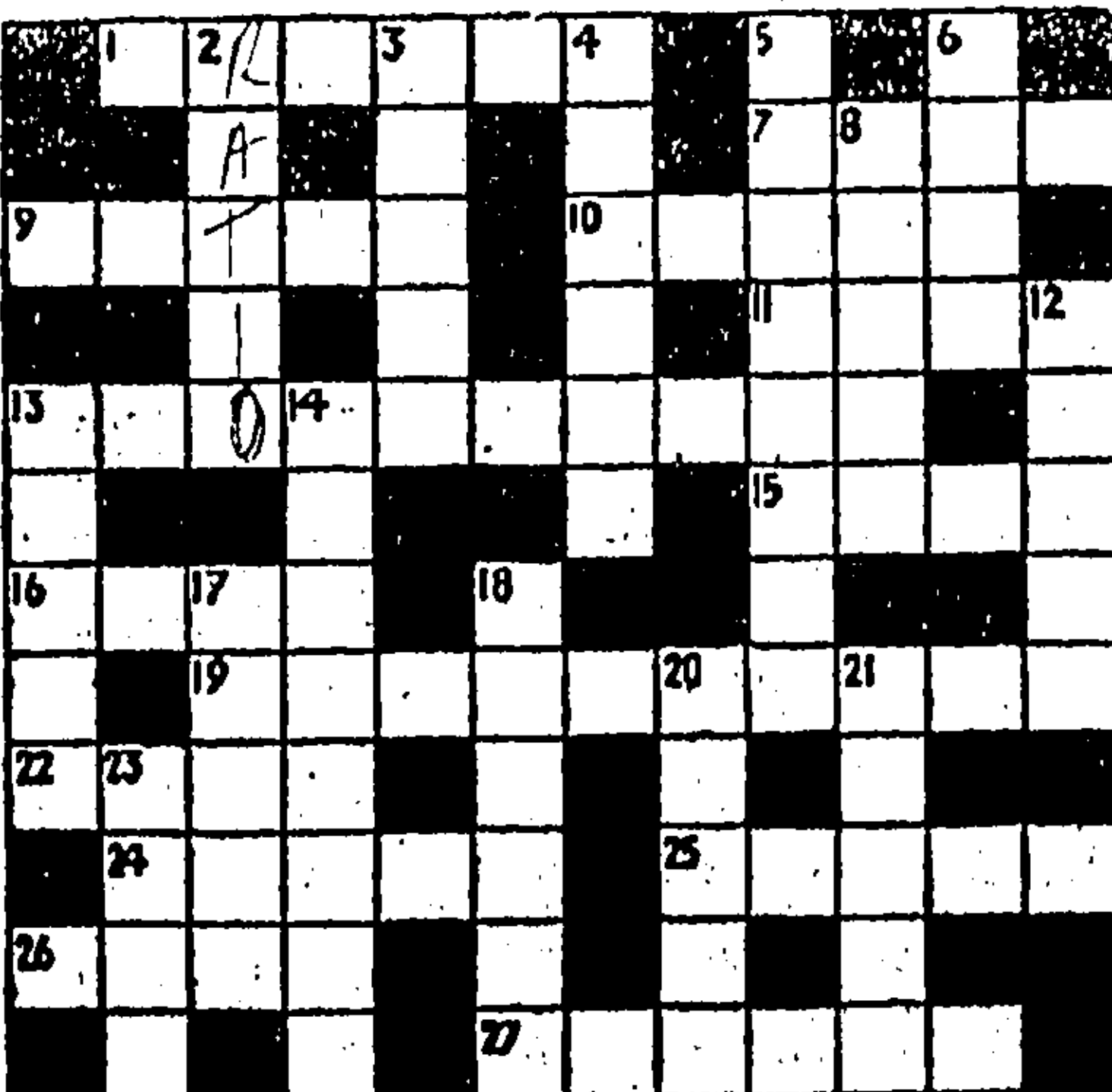
In this event, the wholesale market, on which flour is now almost unobtainable, would be overstocked. Importers who ordered from Canada and France might as a result lose money, because Australian flour was preferred in Singapore and Malaya.—Reuter.

Oslo, Feb. 20.

The Oslo Health Council has closed its lists of parents wishing to adopt children because there are not enough children to go round.

It is estimated that there are now ten times as many parents seeking to adopt a child as there are children in need of adoption.—China Mail Special.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

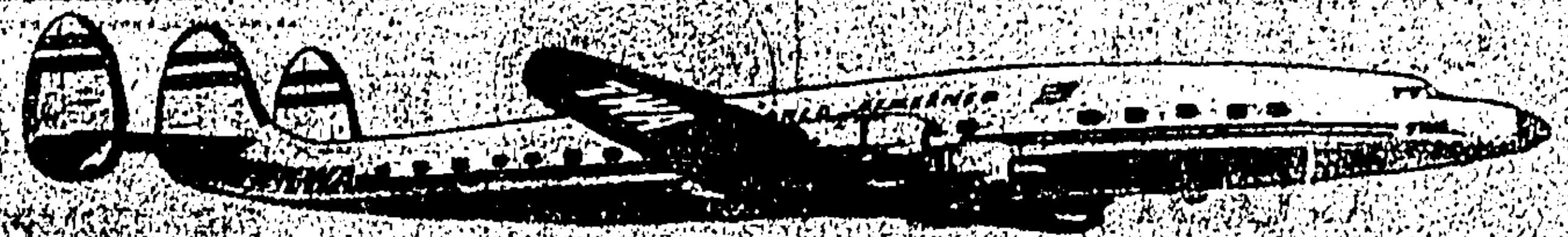
- 1 Drive (6).
- 7 Split (4).
- 9 Staff of office (5).
- 10 Diet (5).
- 11 Poet (4).
- 12 Raising objection (10).
- 13 Expression (4).
- 14 Malay (4).
- 15 Evil-disposed (10).
- 16 Encourage (4).
- 24 Elevate (5).
- 25 Change (5).
- 26 Diverse (4).
- 27 Threefold (6).

DOWN

- 2 Proportion (5).
- 3 Coppers (5).
- 4 Ambassador (8).
- 5 Eastern (8).
- 6 Past (4).
- 8 Licences (5).
- 12 Restrict (5).
- 13 Dance (5).
- 14 Negotiating (8).
- 17 Drib (5).
- 18 Wilderness (8).
- 20 Speak (5).
- 21 Prizes (4).
- 23 Boat (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1 Sacked, 4 Appal, 7 Ink, 8 Begin, 10 Prop, 12 Parade, 15 Recur, 16 Roar, 17 Rate, 19 Pore, 20 Sustain, 21 Soar, 23 Hurry, 24 Brutal, 25 Study, 26 Candid, Down: 1 Slipper, 2 Consist, 3 Peak, 5 Preparation, 8 Abides, 9 Baron, 11 Peacock, 12 Pupils, 13 Deserved, 14 Stuffed, 15 August, 23 Ape.

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VOLUME II

中國風俗



中國風俗

by
V. R. BURKHARDT
Illustrated by the Author
Five Colour Plates
SECOND IMPRESSION

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HONG KONG

KOWLOON



HENRY THE FIRST

HENRY FORD, who who once said: "History is more or less bunk," is still making history almost a decade after his death.

Within the last few weeks the public has been buying Ford shares — something that Henry the First would never allow.

At last after all the tremendous and sometimes glorious years the barriers are down and the Ford finances are revealed to an astonished people. This is the decision of Henry Ford the Second, the grandson of the man who put the world on wheels and the saviour of the Ford empire when it was near collapse.

Henry Ford and eleven partners started with a total capital of 28,000 dollars — £10,000 at the current rate of exchange. Today the Ford Company, with its factories and its foundation, is worth more than \$2,500,000,000.

How did it happen? How did Ford begin and where will the Ford family end?

This series on the fabulous Ford is an attempt to answer these questions and tell the whole story of the last billionaire, one of the great moguls of our time, the tycoon who helped to change the face of the globe.

AS brokers and buyers manoeuvred for position to buy the precious Ford stock, Americans were asking: "What would old Henry say?" Right-wing commentators suggest that the first Ford would be "revolving furiously in his grave" now that Ford is no longer a closed corporation.

What is certain is that Henry Ford the First would have

plenty to say. All his long life (he was 83 when he died) he gave forth with views—some wise, some foolish, some violent, some gentle. He became the great American sage, the crack-barrel philosopher, the 20th-century Aristotle.

I must have read more than half a million words in preparation for this series and seen a hundred different people and I know of no story more absorbing.

It is a story of men and money and machines, of a master mechanic trying to lecture the world and make it over in his own image. Ford scaled the peaks and descended to the depths. All his life he feared personal ridicule.

Crowd tittered

I THINK of him in the courtroom in Mount Clemens, Michigan when he was suing the Chicago Tribune, which had called him an anarchist. Ford was one of the world's richest men and considered himself as one of its most public-spirited.

Counsel for the Chicago Tribune snapped out a question: "Who was Benedict Arnold?" Ford at first could not place the man and then confused him with Arnold Bennett.

"When was the United States formed?" Ford licked his lips and offered the date 1812. The crowd in the courtroom tittered. Then the Tribune lawyer asked softly: "What was the United States originally?" Ford

Can The Future Be Foretold?

I'M HALF-AND-HALF

SIR COMPTON MacKENZIE'S CANDID OPINION

THERE are at least 50 ways of forecasting the future, from dropping melted wax into water to looking at tea leaves in a cup.

Only three, however, are still practised generally all over the world—astrology, palmistry, and crystal-gazing.

The last depends on the clairvoyance of the gazer and belief is a matter of personal experience. It seems to be closely linked with telepathy, and, of course, many predictions must have been accidental; the rare dream which comes "true" is remembered when myriads which do not are forgotten.

A science?

NEVERTHELESS I do not think personally that the possibility of clairvoyance—particularly the kind known as second-sight—can be denied. I am never surprised by tales of its success.

Now the believers in astrology and palmistry claim for them almost the status of an exact science. Any justification?

Forty-five years ago I engaged an astrologer to teach me the elements of his science, but though I can still cast a horoscope I lacked the mathematical ability to perform the calculations, and so I never became an expert. However, like Dr. Richard Owen, the Keeper of the

Printed Books at the British Museum, I decided that there was something in it.

Instead of patience or crossword puzzles Dr. Garnett used to cast the horoscopes of the dead whose lives were known and he came to the conclusion that the constitution, disposition, and abilities of a subject could be deduced from the places occupied in his horoscope by the sun, moon, and planets.

He did not believe that any person's future could be foretold beyond the influence upon that future of his own mental and physical make-up. This is my belief.

To accept the conjunction or opposition of two planets at the moment of one's birth as a decisive factor in one's destiny would be to deny free-will with the disastrous moral result of any form of fatalism.

We still preserve in epithets like "joyful," "saturnine," "mercurial," and "lunatic" the belief of our forefathers in planetary influences. I remember V. B. Yeats telling me he was born at an exact sext between the planets Venus and Mercury, an aspect which indicated the birth of a major poet. (A sext means that two planets are 60 degrees apart in the 360 degrees that make up the zodiac.)

Dr. Garnett would have said that Yeats had in him the makings of a major poet; he would not have believed that Yeats was inevitably destined to become a major poet.

Somebody born when the zodiacal sign Pisces is in the ascendant is likely to have artistic gifts, but, like Yeats, he must make his own way.

born under Scorpio with his liver. In no single horoscope I ever cast did I find that the physical weaknesses therein indicated were contradicted by the robustness of them in the subject of the horoscope.

Astrology is laughed at today as charlatanry, and rightly so, indeed if any student of it is expected to take seriously the rubbish forced out every week by some of our astrological newspaper columnists.

Indications

THEY have their Capricornians and their Sagittarians and what not, born between certain specified dates, for whom each week they prophesy help from friends or caution in business matters or the likelihood of a letter.

Such trivialities would be impossible to prophesy even for somebody whose time and place of birth was known and therefore what sign of the zodiac was in his ascendant at that moment.

To say that somebody is a Capricornian merely means that he was born when the sun was in Capricorn and has no bearing whatever on his horoscope, so far as my investigations have taken me.

I KNOW that William Lilly who had a considerable reputation as an astrologer in the seventeenth century foretold in 1681 that the Fire of London would happen in 1686. The authorities were so much impressed that the astrologer was questioned before a committee of the House of Commons to find out if he had an inkling beforehand of anybody's intention to set fire to London.

And I know that Northrop had foretold the year of the Fire of London as early as 1841. Yet I should hesitate to call the prophesies more than happy coincidences for both years.

What I believe about astrology I believe about palmistry, which the Chinese practised 5,000 years ago.

I cannot accept a predestined certainty from a cross or a triangle or some particular part of my hand. I do accept, however, indications from the shape of the hand of a subject's constitution, disposition, and abilities.

I have never known spatulate (spade-shaped) fingers in a completely unpractical person.

I have never known three conical pads on the other side of the nails upon the fingers of anybody completely devoid of the slightest artistic bent.

On the other hand I have not found that the bracelet round the wrist have the least bearing on the length of life, nor for that matter that the quality of the line of life is a safe guide either to longevity or to reverse. (The skillful palmist can undoubtedly assess the character of his client and often by intuition he can make shrewd guesses about future behaviour.)

And yet...

I have the conviction that palmistry should not be scoffed at.

Fabulous

IS THE STORY THAT BEGINS HERE TODAY
OF THE LAST BILLIONAIRE AND THE EMPIRE
HE PASSED ON TO ANOTHER OF THE

Fords



HENRY THE SECOND

The Great Tinker Put The World On Wheels

By DON IDDON

unclasped a jack-knife and sharpened it on the edge of his shoe. He said: "Land, I guess."

The newspaper's lawyers thought they had scored, but the simple answer touched something in the hearts of the people in the courtroom and the country.

FORD was awarded six cents damages after a suit which cost him \$1,000,000 and the Tribune about the same amount. At least he had proved that he was not an "anarchist."

In 1903 in a lampit office of a coal merchant in Detroit 12 men gathered to discuss how they could make cars and how they could make money. They didn't know that they were to make history also.

Horseless carriages had been on sale in the U.S. since 1893 and the fast-money boys were already betting millions on making a killing.

What he did was to put the internal combustion engine into a car for the masses. Any colour as long as it's black. He produced the first People's Car, and before his death he had manufactured more than

31,000,000 motor vehicles. He made more than 15,000,000 Model Ts, the wonderful Tin Lizzies, alone.

But how did it all begin? In 1903 in a lampit office of a coal merchant in Detroit 12 men gathered to discuss how they could make cars and how they could make money. They didn't know that they were to make history also.

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Horseless carriages had been on sale in the U.S. since 1893 and the fast-money boys were already betting millions on making a killing.

All his life he was superstitious. He rarely moved from the house on Friday the 13th, never walked under ladders, was worried if he spilled salt, and feared black cats.

So the Ford Company, with 12 stockholders, was formed with Henry Ford as vice-president and chief engineer receiving a quarter of the stock. He was a master mechanic.

Ford was the son of an Irish immigrant farmer, William Ford, and a woman of Dutch ancestry, Mary Litogot. His parents wanted him to be a farmer, but it was machinery that attracted Henry, and in his youth he got a series of jobs in machine shops and factories in Detroit.

When the Ford Company was formed Henry was 40. The company had its struggles at the beginning. Several times it looked as if Ford was going to founder.

Experimented with eight different models of various design and within five years was turning out 100 cars a day. Ford called a meeting and said: "This is too slow. My aim is 1,000 cars a day."

His great idea

HIS colleagues accused him of giving beyond himself. Five of Ford's original partners said they wanted to get out, and Ford gladly bought their stock. Each of them made a million or two, but when they walked out of Ford's office each threw away at least \$100,000,000.

It was at this time that Henry Ford got his great idea—to make a cheap, reliable, sturdy motorcar that millions would buy. He would scrap the range of models and build an automobile that would cost little more than a horse and cart, and that could be repaired with a screwdriver and a piece of bent wire.

Ford announced with a touch of grandeur: "I'll build a motorcar for the great multitude," and added that everyone and his family could "enjoy the blessings of hours of pleasure in God's great open spaces."

Food faddist

THE doctor poured water over the sugar crystals, dissolving them, and said: "They are harmless enough." Ford didn't use the doctor's services any more.

He was a faddist about food and once said: "If you eat crackers and milk you'll never die." He was dead against liquor and against cigarettes. Smoking in his factories was strictly forbidden for years.

Meanwhile the money grew and grew, but he wasn't a hoarder or a money-lover. Once his wife found an uncashed cheque for \$75,000 in a pair of trousers he hadn't worn for months. Ford had forgotten about it.

Ford used to say: "I want to live a life. Money means nothing to me—neither the making of it nor the use of it so far as I'm personally concerned. I'm in a peculiar position. No one can give me anything. There's nothing I cannot have, but I do not want the things that money can buy. I want to live a life."

Ford did live a life, one of the most incredible of this or any other time.

troubles could be solved "by higher wages and lower prices."

He said: "The right price is not what the traffic will bear. The right wage isn't the lowest sum a man will work for. The right price is the lowest price an article can steadily be sold for and the right wage is the highest wage the employer can steadily pay."

Ford summoned his executives, went to a blackboard and wrote figures on the blackboard—\$3 a day, \$3.50, \$3.75. His directors said: "This will ruin us."

Ford laughed, chalked up \$4.75 crossed the figure out, wrote \$5, and said: "That's it!"

There was, indeed, one tragic sequel to Ford's audacious move. In the bitter weather, within 48 hours of Ford's announcement, 10,000 men gathered around the Ford factory. Some had come from distant States. There were women and children pleading for jobs for their men. The crowd grew to 15,000 and began to get restive.

THEY were here to have a look at Utopia; this was the promised land. But the weather got colder and the men got hungrier.

The police, who had been called out and the company guards told the crowd to move on and scuffles broke out. Stones were hurled through factory windows and the mob charged the gates. There was panic and pandemonium and the guards and police turned fire hoses on the men and the people who had sought Utopia were routed.

Ford used to tour the factory and watch the assembly line move by. It had to go fast (men were not allowed to go to the toilet and workings were watched out) and it had to be waist-high so the men wouldn't have to bend and waste energy and time and money.

Once Ford told an executive: "Sometimes the men look at me as if they hate me." So he made packages of pick-me-up tablets put in the plants. They were salt tablets and in Ford's opinion worked wonders. Ford was always a great believer in salt. He used to comb his hair in salt water to prevent baldness.

He was suspicious of sugar. One day he called in his doctor, put some grains of sugar under a magnifying-glass and said: "Look at those jagged pieces—sugar will cut your stomach to pieces."

Food faddist

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Ford did live a life, one of the most incredible of this or any other time.

TOMORROW.
Henry the First's bid to stop the First World War.

DESMOND HACKETT'S COLUMN

Courage? Forde
Tops 'Em All

Geoff Iden, the man who won the Jim Peters Trophy—the athletes' badge of courage—told me: "If you want to meet a real man of courage, you want to meet Sammy Forde."

I have heard from Sammy Forde and I would be proud and privileged to meet him.

He has written to me from Belfast. It is the finest letter I have ever read.

Sammy Forde was born with such a physical handicap he had to use both his malformed hands to write that letter.

Yet Mr Forde breezily sends me a catalogue of the sports he plays and his own rating of his ability.

Read this, you chaps who grumble over your golf handicap, the catch that we dropped, the snooker shot that wouldn't drop—and blush over your complaints.

British Pro
Squash On
Way Out

By ERIC NICHOLLS

Professional squash is a dying sport in Britain. England must accept the fact that she is a nation of teachers not players. So says Don Butcher, Secretary of the Squash Rackets Association Professional Committee.

He should know. For Don was professional Champion from 1930-35 and 'Open' title-holder from 1930-32.

The reasons Mr Butcher gives are lack of promising new entrants into professional squash, and the fact that British professionals are concentrating on teaching the game. "You can't do both," says Don. "When I was Champion I gave up everything else to concentrate on keeping match fit. We have only two good players—Jack Giles and Dennis Harman—and they are not good enough to live with the Khans (Hashim Khan is World Champion) on the squash court."

A MATTER OF TIME

"We might as well face it. The game—professionally speaking—hasn't much longer to live in Britain. It's just a matter of time before our tournaments disappear altogether."

Mr Butcher agrees that even if English players gave up coaching they would still be struggling against players in the Khan class. For with only three professional tournaments in Britain during the year, they lack match practice against top class players. — London Express Service.

(COPYRIGHT)

173 Loc. Bty.
In Minor Units
Cricket Final

In a very exciting game at the IRC ground last week, 173 Locating Battery RA gained a narrow eight run victory over Command Pay Office.

They now meet the winners of the HQF and Hongkong and Kowloon Garrison match in the final of the competition.

Battling first, 173 were soon in trouble and two wickets were down for only seven runs. An aggressive knock by Stock took the score to 35 but seven wickets were down for 57. The tallenders hit out with a result that the score reached 95. The wickets were evenly shared by the Comd. Pay bowlers, Kershaw being the most successful with 3 for 28.

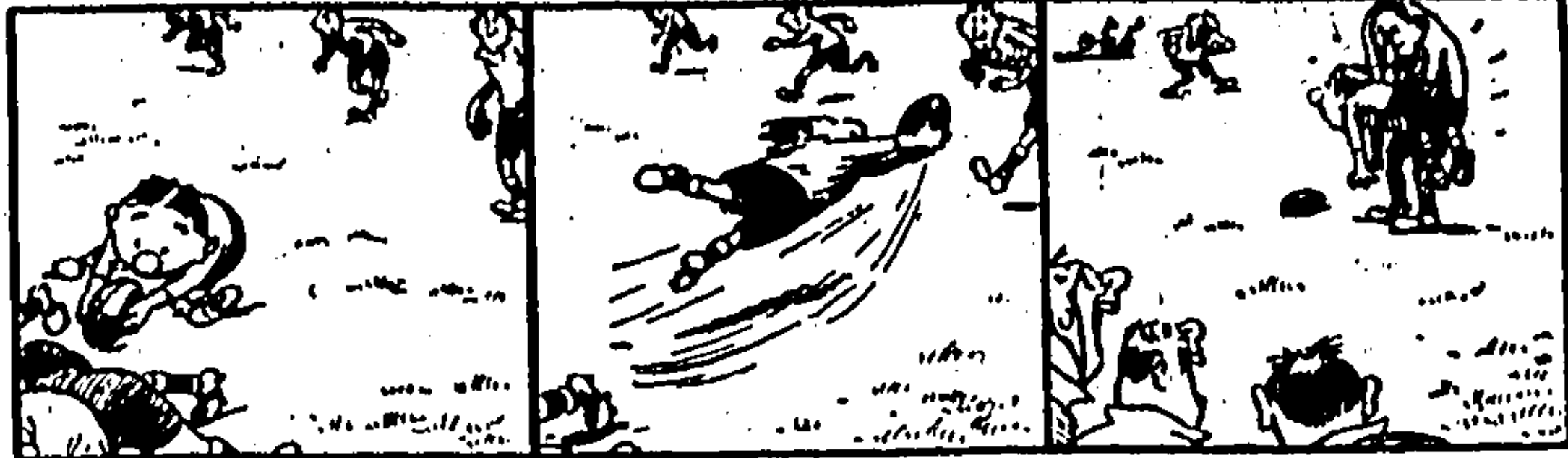
In reply Command Pay lost a quick wicket through a good catch by Johnston and good fielding kept the score down. Marshall was dismissed at 26 and four wickets were down for 31. Runs were coming slowly against an accurate attack led by Boorman who always kept the batsmen playing him with care.

Hulbert was battling very well and with the score at 79 for 7 victory was in sight. However, a very good ball from Boorman completely beat Hulbert and he was clean bowled for 81. Shaw left at 88 and amidst great excitement, Noyce came to the wicket. He had injured his hand whilst fielding and batted with a bandaged right hand.

His effort proved to be forlorn however and with the score at 87 Atkinson brought off a brilliant diving, one-handed catch to dismiss him. Boorman bowled very well to take 6 for 24 but the fielding of the 173 team as a whole really won the game.

SPORTING SAM

By Reg. Wootton



RUGGER PREVIEW

No-Change England Can
Shake Gay Paree; Irish
In For Another Defeat

By J. R. WATKINS

Has rugby in Vic Roberts found a man to match football's Stanley Matthews? True, Roberts, at 31 is ten years behind the "wizard of dribble." But whatever the arguments over the respective skills of rugby and football, nobody can deny that the handling code is a mighty tough pastime.

Last season Roberts was playing as well as ever for Harlequins. But the English selectors took note of his form, and continued to overlook him. They thought, apparently, that he could not last out a full game. How wrong they were.

Credit the selectors with admitting their error and restoring Roberts to the national side. Roberts, in turn, and by way of a thank-you, played a large part in the humbling of Ireland.

Roberts keeps his place in an unchanged team to play France in Paris on February 25. It is not a surprising decision by the selectors who, together with England supporters, were more than satisfied with the form shown against Ireland.

Some may argue that it is hard on Ted Woodward, and that Cannell would probably have sat out the last international but for an injury to Quinn. But that sort of thing must be accepted as all part of the game.

Certainly, it is hard to criticise a corps of selectors who have shown complete faith in a side that did well.

THE BEST PACK

There is some justification for the feeling that England have found the best pack of forwards since the days of W. Wakefield.

Had these forwards not fought the Irish to a standstill in the first half, and swarmed over them in the second, I doubt whether the backs would have been seen to such advantage.

In the first half it had been a tricky job for Williams to get the ball away, and no try had been scored.

Perhaps most important is the team work shown by the England forwards. Often in the past they have grumbled at one another. Now every man gets on with his job, knowing the others will do theirs.

CIVIL AID
SERVICE
ORDERS

No. 5. Orders by the Hon. C. E. Terry, OBE, Commissioner, Civil Aid Services of February 17, 1956.

C.A.S. Pay Section—Full Day Training—Full day training will take place on Sunday, February 20. Sunday, March 11, Sunday, March 18. Place of Parade: C.A.S. Headquarters. Time of Parade: 0900 to 1700 hours.

Pay & Allowances—End of Financial Year—(a) The current financial year ends on March 31. Pay sheets for all pay and allowances due to members up to and including 29.2.56 must be completed and submitted to the Deputy Paymaster, C.A.S. Headquarters on or before Saturday, March 10, 1956.

Pay Parade—(a) Pay parades for the undermentioned units will be held as stated below. Payment will not be made unless C.A.S. Identity Cards are produced; (b) Failure to collect this pay during April will result in a forfeiture of the member's entitlement to pay. The member is able to prove that it was impossible for him to attend such parade; (c) A Senior Officer of the Zone, Unit or Sub-Unit on parades must be in attendance to identify members. In this connection, attention of Unit or Sub-Unit Controllers and Zone Wardens is invited to C.A.S. Circular Memo No. 3 of February 9, 1955; (d) Personnel of the undermentioned units will report to the C.A.S. Deputy Paymaster at the C.A.S. Headquarters between 1700 hours and 1800 hours on the dates stated:

2.4.56. (Monday), Rescue Services; 3.4.56. (Tuesday), Western Zone; 4.4.56. (Friday), Communications Unit and Central Zone; 5.4.56. (Monday), Shanghai Zone; Stanley Zone, Aberdeen Zone, Hongkong Command Post; 10.4.56. (Tuesday), Eastern Zone; 12.4.56. (Thursday), Despatch Services; 13.4.56. (Friday), Despatch Services; 14.4.56. (Saturday), Reserve Zone; View Zone, Kowloon Command Post.

(e) Personnel of the undermentioned units will report to the C.A.S. Deputy Paymaster at the C.A.S. Headquarters between 1800 hours and 1900 hours on the dates stated:

10.4.56. (Monday), Kowloon City Zone and Kowloon Zone; 11.4.56. (Tuesday), Reserve Zone and Shanghai Zone; 12.4.56. (Thursday), Kowloon Zone and Shanghai Zone.

C. E. Terry, OBE, Commissioner, Civil Aid Services, 17.2.56.

IRISH GAITY

With an irrepressible Irish gaiety bubbling from his letter he says: "I would like to come to London and play you at table tennis, golf, and badminton; have a bat and ball at Lord's indoor net; have a run with the Arsenal or 'Spurs' boys; and have a run round Silverstone with Mike Hawthorn."

Sammy Forde might give quite a fair show at either Lord's, Arsenal or Tottenham. Last season, in the Ulster Senior Cricket League, his bowling figures were: 284.5 over 30 wickets, 887 runs, 58 wickets. He was presented with a mounted cricket ball for one performance of eight for 17.

His comment: "You will notice I had to take longer than anyone else to get my figures." It may have taken him longer, but since he joined Hollywood Cricket Club five years ago he has topped their bowling averages.

He played in a selected side alongside West Indian Test stars Clyde Walcott, Everton Weekes, and Sonny Ramadhin.

TALENT SPOTTER

When he was playing Soccer Forde was the first to spot the talent of Sammy Smyth, who moved to Wolves, Stoke, and Liverpool.

When it comes to shooting, it is Sammy on the mark again. During the last war it was Home Guard Platoon Sergeant S. L. Forde, No 1 marksman.

No wonder Geoff Iden, the man of courage for 1955, says: "If any man ever deserved an award for courage it is Sammy Forde. He has not merely overcome disabilities which would have left most men seriously crippled, he has just ignored them and got on with the job of enjoying life."

Maybe we who fret over the fading installations of life, who lose our temper at the sports we try to pursue, should remember at least two sentences from an unforgettable letter....

"I always try to play all games with my head.... All I hope is that I have helped and encouraged others."

Sammy Forde, you're a wonderful sport!

(COPYRIGHT)

British Athletic
Team Off To
Trinidad

London, Feb. 20. An All-International British athletics team left London by air tonight for Trinidad where they will compete in the Southern Games on February 25 and 26.

Brian Hewson, one of the world's five under four minute milers, and Peter Driver, the Empire Games Six Miles Champion, are included in the team of seven.

The others in the party are Eric Shirley, Ken Wilmsmire, Geoff Elliott, cyclist, Peter Brotherton, and Clay Gibbs, who is making a return to his native country. Mr Jack Crump went with them as team manager.—Reuter.

AAU Gets Even
Tougher About
Wes Santee

New York, Feb. 20. Organisers of American athletic meetings were warned today by the United States Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), that they would lose AAU sanction permanently if they allowed the suspended Wes Santee to compete.

The AAU warned that any athlete competing in a meeting in which Santee took part would jeopardise his amateur status.

America's leading miller was suspended yesterday for life for alleged irregularities, over expenses, involving about 1,000 dollars.—Reuter.

SPORTS VIEWPOINT

HAYNES-QUIXALL, THE
PARTNERSHIP ENGLAND
NEEDS TODAY

Says ERIC NICHOLLS

England team manager Walter Winterbottom was at Sheffield last week to see his under-23 soccer 'Babe' hand out a man-sized beating to Scotland's under-23s. He must have noted, as I did, the come-back form of Sheffield's golden boy Albert Quixall.

Discarded by the full England team, Quixall fitted smoothly into a line that as a whole showed considerable promise. Many people afterwards were describing Haynes and Quixall as the inside-forward combination England have been seeking since the days of Carter and Mannion. I agree.

But will the English selectors? They have a plan of their own. It is not always successful. But it has, in fairness, paid off this season. It is for an inside-forward to its deep, linking up with the half backs and scheming openings for the other two inside men, who stay well up as a double spearhead.

GOALS WILL COME

Goals will come. They cannot fail to with two centre-forwards patrolling near the penalty area all afternoon. But to my mind it is an unimaginative way of playing football. And, more important, it places too heavy a burden on the inside-forward whose job it is to make goals.

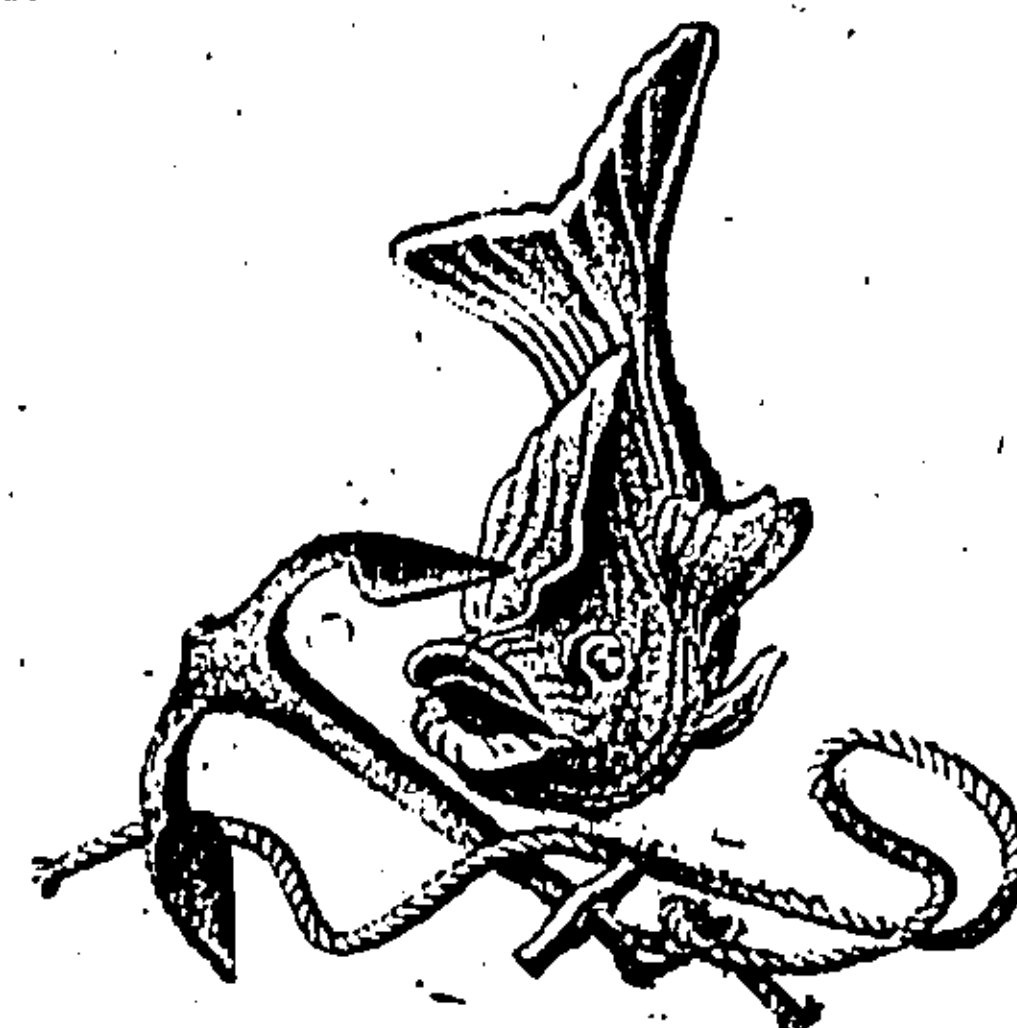
In any case I have a sneaking suspicion that the Winterbottom plan is something of an anticlimax brought about by the fact that his forward line at one time read—Matthews, Bentley, Allen, Shackleton, Blunstone. This formation, many felt, was over-loaded with ball players. Who is going to get the goals? they asked.

Sports Diary

TODAY
Boxing: BN Boxing Association team versus Army Boxing Association team, China First Club at 8 p.m.
Tennis: Colony Grasscourt championships at HKCC.
TOMORROW
Cricket: "Chopsticks" versus Combined Schools at HKCC.
Tennis: Colony Grasscourt championships at HKCC.

SPORTING EVENTS
AT WEMBLEY

Two great sporting events that annually fill the vast Wembley Stadium, near London—the Rugby League Cup Final and the Football Association Cup Final—will take place in 1956 on April 28 and May 5 respectively.

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with the Seamaster Calendar

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For 74 years Omega has held the only precision record officially recognized by the National Physical Laboratory of New Tiding (England). For the fifth successive time Omega has been appointed official timekeeper of the Olympic Games. No other watch has been awarded this distinguished honor.

World-wide Guarantee

In every country of the free world, the finest jewelers and watchmakers sell and service Omega. Wherever you may be, you'll always find authorized Omega dealers equipped to give your watch complete and careful service under Omega's world-wide guarantee.

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310 Gloucester Building

TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

Macmillan's Measures May Backfire

BURDEN NOT BORNE BY ALL ECONOMY SECTORS

From Ronald Boxall

London, Feb. 20.

The economic measures announced last week are the most drastic taken by any British government to combat the recurring bouts of inflation that have bedevilled Britain since the end of the war.

The shocks began on Thursday when the bank rate was hoisted to 5½ per cent and continued the next day when the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a series of further measures designed to stop the upward march of prices.

To the highest bank rate Britain has had since the depression days of 1931 and the tight squeeze on bank credit, Mr Macmillan has now added these weapons to his disinflationary armour.

Cuts in the subsidies on bread and milk, which mean that these staple foodstuffs will cost more; tighter restrictions on hire purchase; abolition of the investment allowances introduced two years ago to encourage investment in new plant and machinery and the reintroduction of the less powerful incentive of initial allowances; and cuts in capital expenditure by the government itself and by the nationalised industries.

But Why?

The first reaction of the British public was one of bewilderment. Why did he do it? It is the question on everyone's lips. Mr Macmillan gave his answer in these words: "There is general agreement that the combined demands of investment and consumption are growing too fast for our economy's lip. This has held back our exports, swollen our imports, forced us into balance of payments deficit, helped to reduce our reserves by a quarter and driven up our domestic price level."

No one who has watched the present economic crisis will quarrel with this analysis. Something had to be done and done quickly. And of course there are only a limited number of ways open to a Conservative Chancellor faced with this problem.

It would be easy to take Mr Macmillan's measures one by one and make out a plausible argument why they should fail. But the programme is intended to stand as a whole and this is the light in which it should be judged.

Keen Disappointment

The first point to make then is that Mr Macmillan has rejected once and for all the "Socialist" methods of combating inflation. There is to be no return to import restrictions and building controls. Economic purists will welcome this, even though they may regard the hire purchase measures as evidence of the government's lack of courage in its own convictions.

This is not to say, however, that the Chancellor's programme will win general approval. Even his own supporters in Parliament will feel keen disappointment at his failure to make any significant cut in the government's spending on current consumption.

Estimates for civil expenditure during the next financial year are actually £112 million higher than the original estimates for 1955-56. Mr Macmillan claimed that this, at a period of higher costs, represented a fall in real terms of government expenditure on national resources. The rise in money terms, he said, was more than accounted for by the increases in the cost of education, the health services and the armed forces' pay.

Bigger Burden

But it is clear that once again the government has placed the real responsibility for cutting down consumption on everyone but itself. True it hopes to cut its own capital expenditure by £20 million. But it seems that the main reductions will be effected by keeping an even tighter rein on loans to local government

authorities for building purposes. A much bigger burden falls on industry and the general public. The nationalised industries are to cut their capital expenditure by £50 million below what was originally planned in their development programmes. And private businessmen will find it difficult as well as more expensive to finance their plans for expansion.

Loans Harder

Apart from higher interest rates that will come into force following the increase in the bank rate they will be deprived of the tax free allowance on new investment in capital equipment that they have enjoyed for the past two years. The initial allowances which merely slow down the rate at which tax is paid when new investments are undertaken are a minor compensation.

If a businessman decides in spite of all this to go ahead with development plans he will find it harder to raise loans either from the banks or the public. Mr Macmillan made sure of this when he decided that the squeeze on the bank advances will continue and at the same time instructed the Capital Issues Committee which vets all applications to raise public loans to adopt a "vigorous critical attitude" to all applicants.

But if businessmen will find it more difficult in the future to add to their spending by borrowing money so will the general consumer. This is to be ensured by increasing the amount of down payment required when goods are bought on hire purchase. Everyone who buys goods this way will, in the future, have to pay up to half the cash price before he can take them home.

Other Mistake

The main criticism of the government's new measures is that the main burden has been unequally shared as between the public and private sectors of the economy. No one denies the need to cut down total consumption but neither will anyone take kindly to measures which restrict private spending while leaving the government's own vast expenditure virtually unscathed.

Mr Macmillan's other big mistake is a psychological one. He cannot be blamed for making his announcement as dramatic as possible in order to make the maximum impact on public opinion. The British public undoubtedly needed a shock to bring the truth of the situation home to them. But the cuts in subsidies on bread and milk may be a shock that will backfire on the government.

Antagonised People

Granted the subsidies are difficult to justify at a time of full employment and high wages; granted the cuts will save the government £30 million a year. But in practice all the hopes are that this amount will be passed on to the consumer, the cost of living will rise again and trade unions will be presented with a ready-made excuse for pressing claims for still higher wages.

One would feel much more confident about the outcome of the present battle against inflation if the Chancellor had not gone so far out of his way to antagonise the people whose co-operation he urgently needs.

London Express Service.

COPPER PRICE RISES

New York, Feb. 20. Phelps Dodge Corp. announced today it has raised the price of domestic electrolytic copper three cents to 46 cents a pound, effective tomorrow. This follows similar action by Anaconda Co. last Friday.—United Press.

WORLD COTTON MARKETS

New York, Feb. 20. Cotton prices today settled back irregularly after a buoyant start.

Initial gains up to \$1 a bale were gradually whittled down as traders became more cautious pending developments on farm legislation.

Evening-up operations in the spot March delivery before first notice day on Thursday provided one of the trading picture in the farm legislation picture which looked more confused than ever to some observers. They felt unless Congress can evolve legislation acceptable to the President, or unless the administration changes its present views, there might not be any effective legislation at all.

Others doubted whether any legislation could be approved in time to affect the size of the average planted this spring.

The spot March delivery secured narrowly around the 35½ cent level. Leading spot interests were stacked-up, sellers supplying a routine trade demand. Open March contracts at the start of trading today totalled 142,200 bales. The certificated stock rose 25 bales to 10,140 bales.

Volume and open interest were:

Month	Volume	Open Interest
March	20,254	142,200
April	10,400	44,000
May	10,000	22,700
June	10,200	20,100
July	10,000	24,500
August	3,100	10,000
September	2,900	60,300
October	2,100	37,000
November	2,100	140,500 bales.

NEW YORK

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
35.50	35.77	35.25	35.00	34.75	34.50	34.25	34.00	33.75	33.50	33.25

NEW ORLEANS

Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25

LIVERPOOL

Future closings, in pence per lb. were as follows:

Old contract	Mar./Apr.	May/June	July/Aug.	Sept./Oct.	Nov./Dec.	Jan./Feb.	Mar./Apr.
20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00

Sao Paulo cotton prices were unavailable.—United Press.

London Foreign Exchange

New York, Feb. 20. London, Feb. 20. New York 2/10 1/2-2/10 3/4. Amsterdam 10/23 1/2-10/23 3/4. Brussels 10/23 1/2-10/23 3/4. Frankfurt 11/21 1/2-11/21 3/4. Lisbon 10/23 1/2-10/23 3/4. Milan 10/23 1/2-10/23 3/4. Paris 10/23 1/2-10/23 3/4. Stockholm 10/23 1/2-10/23 3/4. Zurich 10/23 1/2-10/23 3/4. Others were unchanged.—United Press.

New York Foreign Exchange

New York, Feb. 20. Canada—official 1/2-1/2. 30-day futures 1/2-1/2. 60-day futures 1/2-1/2. New Zealand 1/2-1/2. South Africa 1/2-1/2. Others were unchanged.—United Press.

Advance Continues On Wall Street

New York, Feb. 20.

Stocks extended last week's advance in brisk trading early today.

While gains generally were limited to fractions, there were some rises of a point or more, and a few special issues went sharply against the trend.

Long Bell Lumber was outstanding among the latter, dropping 4½ points to \$58½ after its recent wild gains as Congress was urged by Senators to investigate what it called the monopoly aspects of a proposed merger of International Paper Co. and Long Bell.

There were some soft spots in the oils, with Texas Co. off a point.

Closing Prices

Stock	Price
Allied Chemicals	109 3/4
Amalgamated	20 1/2
American Metal	40 1/2
American Smelting	51 1/2
American Tel. & Tel.	10 1/2
American Tobacco	7 1/2
Anaconda Copper	17 1/2
Armco Steel	37 1/2
Baltimore & Ohio	41 1/2
Bethlehem Steel	1 1/2
Canadian Pacific	32 1/2
Chrysler Motors	31 1/2
Consolidated Edison	37 1/2
Cuban American Sugar	22 1/2
Dupont de Nemours	20 1/2
Eastman Kodak	70 1/2
General Electric	37 1/2
General Motors	43 1/2
Goodyear Tire	37 1/2
International Nickel	81 1/2
International Paper	12 1/2
Kennecott Copper	12 1/2
Lockheed Aircraft	47 1/2
Lowes Inc.	21 1/2
Long Bell Lumber	58 1/2
Montgomery Ward	10 1/2
National Cash Reg.	37 1/2
National Lead	61 1/2
New York Central	33 1/2
Oil States	30 1/2
Pacific Gas & Elec.	40 1/2
Paragon Petroleum	31 1/2
Radio Corporation	34 1/2
Republic Steel	37 1/2
Shenandoah	30 1/2
Seelye Vacuum	30 1/2
Standard Oil of Cal.	41 1/2
Standard Oil of Ind.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of N.J.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Tex.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Ky.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of La.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Okla.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Wis.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Ill.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Mo.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Pa.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of S.D.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of W. Va.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Colo.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Neb.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Minn.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Iowa	32 1/2
Standard Oil of Ark.	32 1/2
Standard Oil of La. & Tex.	32 1/2
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